

## Senate Resolution 100

By: Senators Murphy of the 27th and Pearson of the 51st

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 1, 2007, as "Community Health Centers Day"; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, federally qualified community health centers located in over 100 medically  
3 underserved communities provide high quality primary and preventive health care to 239,000  
4 people in the State of Georgia, including the working poor, uninsured, underinsured, elderly,  
5 homeless, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations, without regard to income status,  
6 cultural or ethnic heritage, or disease conditions; and

7 WHEREAS, community health centers bring over \$34 million per year to Georgia  
8 communities, recruit and retain excellent health care professionals where they are most  
9 needed, and offer access to a wide range of cost-effective medical and dental services and  
10 prescription medicines as well as to health education, nutrition counseling, translation  
11 services, community outreach transportation, and support programs; and

12 WHEREAS, community health centers have a track record spanning four decades of  
13 controlling costs, documented in several studies which show that rates of costly emergency  
14 room visits, hospitalizations, and specialty care referrals are much lower among health center  
15 patients than patients of other providers; and

16 WHEREAS, community health centers save the Medicaid program 30 to 33 percent in annual  
17 spending per Medicaid beneficiary; and

18 WHEREAS, community health centers work in partnership with other health care providers,  
19 local hospitals, health departments, social service agencies, and health related support services  
20 to maximize resources and assure that services are coordinated to improve the health status  
21 of the community; and

22 WHEREAS, Georgia's community health centers and the Georgia Association for Primary  
23 Health Care have supported President George W. Bush's goal of increasing the number of

1 community health centers in Georgia and across the nation and have taken a leadership role in  
2 establishing more centers in underserved communities to help resolve this state's health care  
3 access problems, demonstrating commendable efforts in continuous quality improvement,  
4 reduction of health disparities among the underserved, the implementation of new health care  
5 initiatives such as Medicaid managed care and electronic health records, and utilization of the  
6 latest technology to improve both operations and delivery of services to more Georgians; and

7 WHEREAS, community health centers deserve commendation for their valuable contributions  
8 in expanding access to health care, their outstanding record of service, and their dedication to  
9 improving health care and the health status of all Georgians.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
11 recognize the foregoing by designating February 1, 2007, as "Community Health Centers Day."

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to  
13 transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Association for Primary Health  
14 Care.